

WATER QUALITY TEAM MEETING NOTES
January 13, 2004
National Marine Fisheries Service Offices
Portland, Oregon

1. Introductions and Review of the Agenda.

Mark Schneider of NOAA Fisheries, WQT co-chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting, held August 12 at the National Marine Fisheries Service's offices in Portland, Oregon. The meeting was facilitated by Robin Harkless and co-chaired by Russell Harding of ODEQ. The meeting agenda and a list of attendees are attached as Enclosures A and B. Please note that some of the enclosures referenced in these meeting notes may be too lengthy to routinely attach to the minutes; please contact Kathy Ceballos (503/230-5420) to obtain copies.

2. WQT Comments on Corps Plan of Action for Dissolved Gas Monitoring.

Harkless noted that the most recent version of the draft Plan of Action was distributed by the Corps on December 22. Jim Adams said he hoped to receive any last comments at today's meeting so that he can finalize the plan. He noted that the only section that has changed since the last time the WQT reviewed the plan is Section 4.0.

Harkless asked whether there was anything outside Section 4.0 on which the other WQT participants wished to comment. A number of participants indicated in the affirmative. At Harkless' suggestion, the WQT then went through the draft 2004 Plan of Action section by section, offering a variety of clarifying comments and questions. Among other topics, these comments touched on the use of clickable GIS maps to disseminate monitoring data from the Corps homepage, monitoring seasons and timing, the Corps' monitoring responsibilities under the BiOp, cooperation with participating agencies (Section 5), other RPAs that need to be addressed in addition to RPA 132 (130, 131 and 133), and the need for general consistency with the 2000 BiOp.

With respect to Section 4.0, the WQT participants' comments centered mainly on the Camas/Washougal monitoring station – the appropriateness of monitoring at this station, whether spill below Bonneville should be managed to 115% TDG, the appropriateness of the wording in the document regarding the ongoing Camas/Washougal debate, the current status of that debate, the Corps' 2004 SYSTDG plans. It was agreed that Harding and Paul Pickett will provide wording to better articulate the states' positions on the Camas/Washougal issue. Adams noted that, at this time, the Corps is not planning to make any changes to the Camas/Washougal

site.

At the conclusion of this discussion, the WQT participants agreed to provide their comments to Adams in writing by close of business Friday, January 16. Adams said he will revise the 2004 Plan of Action to reflect the comments and suggestions made at today's meeting once those are received, and will then distribute the finalized POA to the WQT as soon as it is available.

Pickett suggested, as a global comment, that it would be helpful to complete future Plans of Action earlier in the calendar year; he added that, in his opinion, it might be helpful for the WQT to discuss some of the issues that are likely to crop up in the next POA during the course of the year. If possible, Adams replied; however, to a certain extent, at least, the timing of the Plan of Action's delivery is dictated by state requirements.

3. Fixed Monitoring System for 2004.

This topic was addressed during the previous agenda item.

3. Next WQT Meeting Date.

The next meeting of the Water Quality Team was set for Tuesday, February 9. Meeting summary prepared by Jeff Kuechle.